

My name is Keith Heidorn.

If you asked me to describe myself in the context of the Weather Doctor, I would tell you that I am both an artist and a scientist who is deeply involved with the weather and other atmospheric phenomena on many levels.

I have had a love affair with the weather for about 45 years.

You see, I think that weather is the most sensual aspect of life, stimulating all my senses at one time or another and often several at once.

I was born in Chicago and grew up in northeastern Illinois where I first fell in love with the weather.

The Great Lakes region has its variety of weather extremes generally with a rapid turnover of daily weather events.

United States

1 February 1893, Saint Louis, Missouri: Although the air temperature is only 13° above zero, Fahrenheit (-25° C), thunder and lightning accompany sleet and snow during the evening hours.

1 February 1920, Atmospheric pressure builds over New England went to extreme levels. Barometer in Portland, Maine reads 31.09 inches Hg (1053 mb), the highest February sea-level pressure ever recorded in the Eastern US. Hartford, Connecticut hits 31.06 inches Hg (1051 mb). The Eastern US record was set the previous day (January 31, 1920) in Northfield VT at 31.14 in, though it was the same air mass. The City data comes from Christopher Burt's list of extreme pressures for US Cities

1 February 1951, Texas to Pennsylvania: Great ice storm produces glaze up to four inches (10 cm) thick from Texas to Pennsylvania. The total deaths was twenty-five with 500 serious injuries and \$100 million damage. Tennessee was hardest hit by the storm. Communications and utilities are interrupted for seven to ten days.

1 February 1986, United States: The longest recorded, national run without a tornado ends, 52 days from December 12, 1985 to February 1, 1986.

1-2 February 1916, Seattle, Washington: Seattle is buried under 21.5 inches (54.6 cm) of snow, its greatest 24-hour snowfall on the first. A total of 32.5 inches (82.6 cm) of wet snow accumulates over three days. Seattle cathedral dome collapses under weight.

2 February 1956, New Mexico and west Texas: A record snowstorm brings 15 inches (38 cm) of snow to Roswell New Mexico, and up to 33 inches (84 cm) in the Texas Panhandle.

2 February 2006, New Orleans, Louisiana: As if the devastation of 2005 was not enough, New Orleans is struck by two tornadoes, collapsing at least one previously damaged house and battering Louis Armstrong International Airport.

2 February 1996, Tower, Minnesota: Temperature plummets to a Minnesota record low of 60° below zero, F (-51° C), cancelling Tower's annual Icebox Days festival because it is too cold.

2 February 2008, Hilo,, Hawaii: Hilo is deluged by 10.82 inches (275 mm) of rain in a period of 24 hours, breaking the previous record set in 1969 by 89 mm (3.5 inches).

2-3 February 1952, South Florida: South Florida hit by the only tropical storm of record, known as the Groundhog Day Storm to hit the U.S. in February. Storm moves out of the Gulf of Mexico with 60 mph (96 km/hr) winds and two to four inches (5 to 10 cm) of rain.

3 February 1803, Winston Salem, North Carolina:The region is hit by 20 inches (50 cm) of snow.

3 February 1947, Tanacross, Alaska: Temperature plunges to a record 75° below zero, Fahrenheit (-59° C).

3 February 1963, Montezuma, Arizona: February's record maximum temperature in the United States 105°F (40.6° C).

3 February 1997, Centralia, Washington: Centralia sets the state record for consecutive days of precipitation at 55 between 10 November 1996 and 3 February 1997.

3 February 2006, Point Lay, Alaska: Temperature plunges to a local record of 56° below zero, Fahrenheit (-48.9° C).

3-12 February 2007, Northern New York:A 10-day stretch of intense lake-effect squalls finally ends for communities along eastern Lake Ontario, leaving behind from 7 to 12 feet (2.1 to 3.6 m) of snow. In Oswego County, Redfield's unofficial total of 141 inches (358 cm) since 3 February sets a state record for snowfall from a "single event," according to the National Weather Service. Final snowfall totals include: 121 inches (307 cm) in Parish and 106 inches (269 cm) in Mexico, both in Oswego County, and 106 inches (269 cm) in Osceola in neighboring Lewis County. The city of Oswego receives 85 inches (216 cm).

4 February 1996, Couderay, Wisconsin: The coldest temperature ever recorded east of the Mississippi River: -55 °F (-48.3° C).

4 February 2004, Pinson, Alabama: All-time record rainfall over 24 hours deluges Pinson: 7.15 inches (181.6 mm).

4 February 2007, Kahului, Hawaii: Kahului reports a minimum temperature of 54 °F (12.2° C), a daily low temperature record for the date.

5 February 1887, San Francisco, California: A rare snowfall dumps four inches (10 cm) on downtown San Francisco, with the city's western hills receiving seven inches (17.5 cm). Reportedly, excited crowds went on a snowball-throwing rampage.

5 February 1996, Greene, Rhode Island:Rhode Island's coldest temperature: -25 °F (-31.7° C).

5 February 2006, Mount Washington Observatory, New Hampshire: The heat is rising. Mount Washington Observatory reaches a high of 41°F (5° C), the warmest February 5th on record at the summit and two degrees off the monthly mark, where records have been kept since 1932.

5 February 2008, US Southern States:Communities across the South are grieving for the dead after the deadliest round of tornadoes in nearly a quarter century killed 58 people. The storms kill 32 people in Tennessee, 14 in Arkansas, seven in Kentucky and five in Alabama. Damage is likely to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

6 February 1856, Oswego, New York: A rare February lake effect snowfall buries the Oswego area with 6 feet (457 cm) of snow.

7 February 1861, Gouverneur, New York: Temperature free-falls a record 70 Fahrenheit degrees (28.9 C degrees) in one day, bottoming out at -40° (C or F). Two days later the mercury soars to 55°F (12.8° C).

7 February 2008, Alaska: An arctic high centered along the Alcan border separating eastern Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory cause morning temperatures across eastern interior Alaska to lower than minus 60°F (-51° C) at nearly a half dozen locations. The temperature dropped to minus 72°F (-57.8° C) at Chicken, marking the lowest official temperature in the state in more than eight years.

8 February 1987, Chicago, Illinois: Severe winter storm strikes Chicago with mountainous waves along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Waves reached 12-18 feet high (3.6-5.5 m) and the water level in Lake Michigan was raised two feet (0.6 m).

8 February 2009, Hawaii: Snow falls at levels above elevations of 11,000 feet on the Big Island's Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea.

9 February 1933, Riverside Ranger Station, West Yellowstone Park, Montana: February's record minimum temperature in the contiguous United States: minus 66°F (minus 54.4 ° C).

9 February 1933, Moran, Wyoming: The temperature at Moran, located next to Teton National Park, plunges to minus 63°F (minus 52.8 ° C) to establish a state record.

9 February 1977, Chicago, Illinois: The Windy City sees its longest recorded stretch of sub-freezing days end at 43. Seventeen days during the run had minimum temperatures below zero °F (minus 18 ° C), the coldest being -19°F (minus 28.3 ° C)

9 February 1934, Vanderbilt, Michigan: Michigan's record minimum temperature: minus 51°F (minus 46.1 ° C).

9 February 2009, Flagstaff, Arizona: By evening, 15 inches (45 cm) of snow had fallen at Flagstaff.

10 February 1899, Monterey, Virginia: The temperature plunges to -29°F (-33.9° C) , establishing the Virginia state minimum record (since broken).

11 February 1988, South Dakota: Bitter cold air grips the region The morning low in Aberdeen plunges to 35 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 37.2 ° C). A reading of minus 42°F (minus 41.1 ° C) is reported from Gettysburg.

11 February 2004, North Dakota: Governor John Hoeven declares a snow emergency as winds gusting over 70 mph (110 km/hr) along with heavy snow produces low visibilities and drifts up to 20 feet (6.1 m) in northwestern North Dakota. Amtrak train service is interrupted in the region

11-12 February 2006, New York, New York: The Blizzard of 2006 dumps a record one-day New York City snowfall (since records began in 1869) on Central Park: 26.9 inches (68.3 cm).

11-12 February 2006, US Northeast: Snowfall records also fall in Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania, Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut, Newark, New Jersey, and Worcester and Boston, Massachusetts. The highest total reported was 30.2 inches (76.7 cm) at Fairfield, CT.

11 February 2009, Indiana/Illinois: Heavy rain, by February standards, falls across the Midwest. Indiana locals' greatest totals are led by Ft. Wayne with 3.05 inches (77.5 mm). In addition to setting a daily record, Ft. Wayne's rainfall also sets a new precipitation record for the month of February. Heavy rain also falls at Indianapolis (1.87 inches/47.5mm) and Valparaiso (1.23 inches/31.2 mm). In downstate Illinois, reported accumulations reach 4.11 inches (104.4 mm) at Hidalgo; 4.00 inches (101.6 mm) at Effingham and 3.10 inches (78.7 mm) at Vandalia.

12 February 1958, Northern Florida and Gulf Coast: Snow blankets northern Florida; Tallahassee reports a record 2.8 inches (7 cm). A ship in the Gulf of Mexico, 25 miles south of Fort Morgan AL, reports zero visibility in heavy snow on the afternoon of the 12th.

12 February 2006, Muskegon, Michigan: An intense snow squall of Lake Michigan cuts visibility to zero along a section of US 31. The resulting whiteout causes 96 cars to pile up; 25 were injured in the melee.

13 February 1899, Fort Myers, Florida: A trace of snow falls on Fort Myers, the farthest south that snow had been officially recorded in the US until the Miami snow of 1977.

13 February 1899, Tallahassee, Florida: The same day, the temperature plunges to -2°F (-18.9 ° C).

13 February 1899, New Orleans, Louisiana: After weeks of bitter cold, residents of New Orleans find ice 2 inches (5 cm) thick on the Mississippi River. The river reportedly is frozen from its source in Minnesota almost to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. Chunks of ice float out into the Gulf.

13-14 February 1887, Chicago, Illinois: Chicago's temperature rises from 0°F (-18 ° C) on the 13th to 58°F (14.4 ° C) on the 14th. The 58 F deg (32.2 C deg) rise is the biggest day-to-day rise on record. The city will experience a similar jump in temperature in March 1972.

14 February 1940, Northeastern States: A Saint Valentine's Day Blizzard blankets New England with up to a foot and a half (45 cm) of snow. Gale force winds associated with the storm strand many in downtown Boston.

14 February 2004, Dallas, Texas: Valentine's Day shows white among the red as Dallas sees 3 inches (7.5 cm) of snow wreaked havoc with Valentine's Day flower deliveries. The greatest snowfall since 1978 caused numerous traffic accidents, power outages and flight cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

15 February 2004, Tennessee: Up to 11 inches (33 cm) of snow fall in areas south of Nashville, causing power outages and producing hazardous driving conditions.

15-17 February 2003, Ohio Valley, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast States.: The President's Day Storm of 2003 buries the US East. Many all-time snowfall records are broken, including those in Baltimore and Boston. The storm system brings accumulations of 1-2 feet (30-61 cm) with snowfall amounts exceeding 35 inches (89 cm) in parts of northeastern West Virginia, the heaviest snow accumulations to the East Coast since the Blizzard of 1996.

16 February 1903, Pokegama Dam, Minnesota: Minnesota records its coldest temperature ever with -59 °F (-50.6 °C).

17 February 1748, Charleston, South Carolina: The coldest temperature ever recorded in the Colonial South: 10 °F (-12 °C).

17 February 1926, Binham Canyon, Utah: . A deadly avalanche, Utah's worst, demolishes 14 miner's cottages and a three-story boarding house. Thirty-six are killed and 13 injured.

17 February 2007, Bismark, North Dakota: Bismark establishes a new Guinness world record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place. That's 8,962 snow angels produced on the State Capitol lawn.

17-18 February 2003, Boston, Massachusetts: The President's Day snowstorm sets a new Boston record for the greatest snowstorm total snowfall: a total of 27.5 inches (70 cm).

18 February 1899, San Francisco, California: While much of the central and eastern U.S. was recovering from the most severe cold wave of modern history, the temperature at San Francisco soared to 80° F (26.7° C) to establish a record for month of February.

18 February 1979, Old Forge, New York: The coldest temperature ever officially recorded in New York State -52° F (-46.7° C) at Old Forge in the Adirondacks.

19 February 1884, Southeastern United States: Severe thunderstorms spawn outbreak of sixty tornadoes across the southeastern US, killing more than 420 persons and causing three million dollars damage. Georgia and the Carolinas are hardest hit.

20 February 1898, Eastern Wisconsin: Massive snowstorm buries eastern Wisconsin. Racine receives 30 inches, (76 cm) while drifts around Milwaukee soar 15 feet (4.6 m) in height.

21 February 1918, Granville, North Dakota: Extreme chinook winds drive temperature in Granville from -33° F (-36.1° C) to 50° F (10° C), rise of 83 F° (46 C°).

21 February 1971, Elk City, Oklahoma: Elk City flounders under 36 inches (90 cm) of snow which establish a 24-hour snowfall record for the state.

22 February 1975, New England: Memorable "Cold Sabbath" across the region leaves many with frozen extremities while going to church in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Minus 11 ° F (-24° C) is observed at Dover, New Hampshire.

22 February 1775, Altus, Oklahoma: While surface air temperatures hover near freezing, an F2 tornado kills two and injures 12 as it ripped through a trailer park.

23 February 1802, Northeastern States: A major snowstorm rages along the New England coast bringing 48 inches (122 cm) of snow north of Boston. Three large ships from Salem are wrecked along Cape Cod.

23 February 1998, Otis, Oregon: Otis records its 79 straight day of of rain, the streak which began on 7 December 1997 is the longest in the contiguous US.

24 February 2004, Northern New Mexico: Heavy snows blanket wide areas of northern New Mexico, closing schools and highways. Snow accumulates to 20 inches (50 cm) on the mountains east of Santa Fe; Sandia Park, east of Albuquerque, measures 11 inches (28 cm); 8 inches (20 cm) falls at Los Alamos.

24-26 February 1910, Laconia, Washington: The state's greatest snowstorm dumps 129 inches (328 cm) of snow on Laconia over 3 days.

24-28 February 1977, Virginia to Florida: Dust from western Great Plains reduces visibilities from eastern Virginia through the southeastern states to Florida. The dust originated in the western Great Plains on the 22nd and 23rd, as winds gust above 100 mph (160 km/hr) at Guadalupe Pass, Texas and White Sands, New Mexico, and over Sherman County, Kansas and eastern Colorado.

25 February 1989, Jacksonville, Florida: Jacksonville, where the temperature dips to 24°F (-4.4 °C) is one of thirteen Florida cities to reported record low temperatures. The severe cold in Florida claims three lives and results in \$250 to \$300 million in crop damage.

25 February 1922, Los Angeles, California: The temperature in Los Angeles hits 92°F (33.3 °C) to establish a record for the month of February.

25 February 2009, Alaska: Two Alaskan communities set their all-time records for highest windspeed: St Paul registers a wind of 91 mph (146 km/h), and on St George Island the wind reaches the wind at 94 mph (151 km/h).

26 February 1988, Central and Western U.S : Eight cities in the central and western U.S. report new record high temperatures, including Lamoni Iowa with a reading of 67 °F (19.4 °C). Temperatures in North Dakota were as warm as those in Florida.

26 February 2004, Charlotte, North Carolina: Major snowstorm dumps up to 20 inches (51 cm) of snow accumulated in the Charlotte metropolitan area. Charlotte's third largest snowstorm on record accumulates 11.6 inches (29.5 cm) at the airport.

27 February 1969, Maine: A record snowstorm in Maine comes to an end. Two to four feet (60-120 cm) of snow bury southern and central Maine, with a state record of 57 inches (145 cm) reported at West Forks. Drifts cover many single story homes, and the weight of the snow collapse many roofs.

27 February 1988, Ventura County, California: Torrental rains from thunderstorms along a cold front dumps 2.52 inches (64 mm) in Ventura County.

28 February 1900, Kansas to New York: A massive storm spreads record snows from Kansas to New York State. Some of the record nowfall totals: 17.5 inches (44 cm) at Springfield Illinois, 43 inches (109 cm) at Rochester, New York and up to 60 inches (152 cm) in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State.

29 February 1988, Ventura County, California: A wet Leap Day for southern California. 4.76 inches (120.9 mm) of rain is reported at Tommys Creek in Ventura County.

29 February 2008, Bethel, Maine: The world's tallest snowman, actually a snowwoman, is unveiled in the western Maine town of Bethel. "Olympia," named for Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, is about 122 feet (37.2 m) tall, 10 feet (3.1 m) taller than "Angus, King of the Mountain," which has held the tallest snowman record since 1999. He was named for Angus King, Maine's governor at the time.